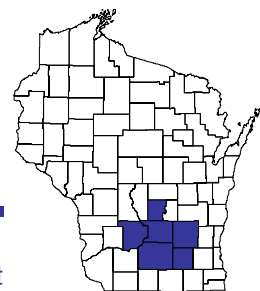


WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

for the South Central Wisconsin counties
Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Marquette and Sauk



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Quick notes:

- > Aggregated South Central unemployment rate estimates were closer to typical in first quarter, but further above typical in second, third and fourth quarters of 2005.
- > South Central Wisconsin's initial claims for unemployment insurance generally followed year-ago patterns. Continued claims were generally below year-ago levels for the first three quarters; they roughly match year-ago levels in fourth quarter.
- > Nationally, consumer prices rose only 0.5% in the 4th quarter.
- > Employment-by-industry estimates for 2005 will be revised before the next *Workforce Observations* release.

A year in review

In 2005, **Columbia County's** monthly unemployment rate estimates were below their typical levels, but they were further below typical in the first half of the year than in the second half of the year. (See table on page 2.) Through 2004, the official definition of the Madison Metropolitan Statistical Area included Dane County; in 2005 it expanded to include Columbia and Iowa counties as well. On one hand, Metropolitan Statistical Areas' monthly employment-by-industry estimates are based on larger samples and offer greater industry detail. On the other hand, monthly employment-by-industry estimates are available for each multi-county MSA in its entirety, but not for any individual county (such as Columbia) within a multi-county MSA.

While **Dane County**, usually enjoyed one of the lowest unemployment rates of any Wisconsin County, its monthly unemployment rate estimates remained above their typical levels for all of 2005. From June through October, the unemployment rate estimates edged closer to their typical levels. November and December estimates did not continue this trend.

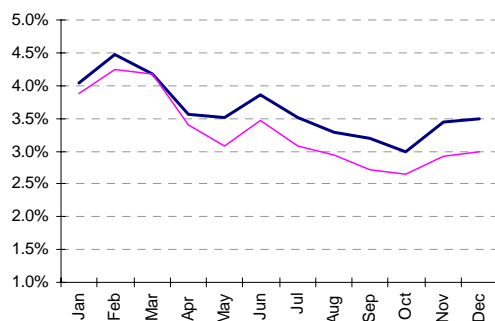
Except for January, August and September, the **Madison MSA** (which includes Columbia, Dane and Iowa counties) saw its total (all-industries) employment estimate remain roughly 3,000 to 4,000 jobs (or about 1 percent) above its year-ago level for all of 2005. For every month of 2005

the construction employment estimate was lower than the same month in 2004, often by margins greater than 400 jobs or 3 percent. The December 2005 manufacturing employment estimate exceeded the December 2004 manufacturing employment estimate, and equaled the December 2003 manufacturing employment estimate. Except May, June and July, every monthly employment estimate for the wholesale trade sector indicated at least 400 jobs or 3 percent growth over the 2004 level.

In the second half of 2005 **Dodge County's** unemployment rate estimates were further above their typical levels than in the first half. November and December were the first months of 2005 to see higher manufacturing employment estimates than the same months of 2004. This is largely

because the November and December estimates fell more quickly in 2004 than in 2005. By the end of 2005 the retail & wholesale trade employment estimate was not as far above its year-ago level as it had been in the beginning of 2005. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates were below their year-ago levels for every month of 2005 except September. The information, professional & business services and other services employment estimate was barely above its year-ago level in January and was nearly 140 jobs or 4.1 percent above its year-ago level in December.

— Actual unemployment rates in South Central WI
— Typical unemployment rates in South Central WI



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From February through October, **Jefferson County's** unemployment rate estimate seemed to be edging closer to its typical levels, but in November and December rose further above its typical levels than it had been since March. The manufacturing employment estimate remained well below its year-ago levels for all of 2005. The information, professional & business services and other services employment estimate began the year nearly 270 jobs or 5.4 percent above its year-ago level and ended the year 190 jobs or 3.5 percent above its year-ago level. In the last quarter of 2005 the retail & wholesale trade employment estimate remained slightly above its year-ago levels, but by much smaller margins than it had been from May through August.

Above their typical levels from July through September, **Marquette County's** unemployment rates spent

the other nine months of 2005 below their typical levels. The total (all-industries) employment estimate remained quite close to its year-ago level for all of 2005. The construction employment estimate began 2005 well below its year-ago level in January; by December it nearly matched its year-ago level. Because the manufacturing employment estimate did not experience autumn increases in 2005 comparable to those in 2004, it went from being slightly above the year-ago level (in the first three quarters) to being slightly below the year-ago level (in the fourth quarter). The education & health services employment estimate began the year above its year-ago level and ended the year below its year-ago level, mainly because it added more jobs in 2004 than in 2005.

In the first quarter of 2005, **Sauk County's** unemployment rate estimates were below their typical lev-

els; in the subsequent three quarters they were above their typical levels for the most part. The construction employment estimate roughly matched its year-ago level in the first quarter of 2005 but enjoyed a longer period of summer growth and a softer autumn decline than in 2004. All of this left the construction employment estimate well above its year-ago level by the fourth quarter. The fourth quarter manufacturing employment estimate was stronger in 2005 than in 2004, largely because it declined more sharply in the last months of 2004. The retail & wholesale trade employment estimate was below year-ago levels for most of 2005 and the November-December holiday season provided less of a boost than it had in 2004. The education & health services employment estimate experienced more even, smooth growth in 2005 than it had in 2006.

South Central Wisconsin Unemployment Rates: Typical and Actual (not seasonally adjusted)

		Dec 2004	Jan 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2005	Apr 2005	May 2005	Jun 2005	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005	Oct 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2005
Columbia County	Actual	4.3%	5.2%	5.7%	5.2%	4.4%	4.0%	4.2%	3.9%	3.7%	3.6%	3.6%	4.4%	4.9%
	Typical	5.2%	6.6%	7.1%	7.0%	5.5%	4.7%	4.8%	4.1%	4.0%	3.7%	3.8%	4.8%	5.2%
	Difference	- 0.9%	- 1.4%	- 1.4%	- 1.8%	- 1.1%	- 0.7%	- 0.6%	- 0.2%	- 0.3%	- 0.1%	- 0.2%	- 0.4%	- 0.3%
Dane County	Actual	2.6%	3.2%	3.6%	3.4%	3.0%	3.1%	3.5%	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.9%	2.8%
	Typical	1.9%	2.5%	2.8%	2.7%	2.3%	2.2%	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%	2.0%	1.9%
	Difference	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%
Dodge County	Actual	4.4%	5.4%	6.0%	5.7%	4.7%	4.5%	5.1%	4.8%	4.6%	4.3%	4.0%	4.6%	4.7%
	Typical	3.7%	4.9%	5.5%	5.3%	4.4%	4.0%	4.5%	4.3%	4.0%	3.3%	3.4%	3.7%	3.7%
	Difference	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	1.0%	0.6%	0.9%	1.0%
Jefferson County	Actual	4.2%	5.4%	5.9%	5.4%	4.3%	4.2%	4.4%	4.0%	3.7%	3.6%	3.3%	3.8%	4.2%
	Typical	3.5%	4.5%	4.9%	4.9%	4.1%	3.7%	4.1%	3.7%	3.5%	3.3%	3.1%	3.3%	3.5%
	Difference	0.7%	0.9%	1.0%	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.7%
Marquette County	Actual	6.5%	8.4%	8.7%	8.1%	6.4%	5.6%	5.6%	5.1%	4.8%	4.5%	4.4%	5.6%	6.3%
	Typical	7.2%	9.4%	9.8%	9.6%	7.4%	5.9%	6.0%	4.9%	4.7%	4.4%	4.8%	6.4%	7.2%
	Difference	- 0.7%	- 1.0%	- 1.1%	- 1.5%	- 1.0%	- 0.3%	- 0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	- 0.4%	- 0.8%	- 0.9%
Sauk County	Actual	4.4%	5.4%	5.9%	5.5%	4.4%	4.0%	3.9%	3.6%	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%	4.2%	4.8%
	Typical	4.4%	5.8%	6.3%	6.2%	4.8%	3.8%	3.9%	3.4%	3.3%	3.2%	3.3%	4.0%	4.4%
	Difference	0.0%	- 0.4%	- 0.4%	- 0.7%	- 0.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%

** Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

South Central Wisconsin Employment-by-Industry Estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			Madison MSA <small>includes Columbia, Dane and Iowa counties</small>		
	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004
Total jobs, all industries*	2,865,600	0	1.0%	344,500	0	1.0%
Const., min'g & nat. resources	139,400	0	4.9%	16,000	- 700	- 4.2%
Manufacturing	503,300	300	0.1%	32,000	430	1.4%
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	440,400	- 3,200	- 0.7%	54,000	- 570	- 1.0%
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	110,700	470	0.4%	8,600	30	0.4%
Financial activities	158,200	1,130	0.7%	28,500	930	3.4%
Education & health services	390,000	0	1.6%	35,400	1,000	2.9%
Leisure & hospitality	250,700	0	2.6%	27,000	- 1,800	- 6.3%
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	446,900	0	1.8%	61,900	0	7.2%
Government	426,000	0	0.8%	81,100	0	0.0%
	Dodge			Jefferson		
	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004
Total jobs, all industries*	35,200	380	1.1%	37,000	420	1.1%
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,300	- 10	- 0.5%	1,740	130	8.0%
Manufacturing	10,800	60	0.5%	9,500	- 300	- 3.1%
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	4,600	190	4.2%	6,100	50	0.9%
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	930	- 10	- 1.4%	1,240	0	0.3%
Financial activities	840	10	1.7%	1,040	20	2.3%
Education & health services	4,300	70	1.7%	4,500	- 10	- 0.1%
Leisure & hospitality	2,300	- 40	- 1.5%	3,100	- 10	- 0.4%
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	3,500	140	4.0%	5,500	150	2.8%
Government	5,500	- 20	- 0.4%	4,300	380	9.6%
	Marquette			Sauk		
	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Oct-Dec 2005 average	Change from Oct-Dec 2004	Change from Oct-Dec 2004
Total jobs, all industries*	4,100	10	0.3%	36,600	720	2.0%
Const., min'g & nat. resources	190	- 20	- 7.5%	2,300	200	9.5%
Manufacturing	1,240	- 10	- 0.7%	6,800	170	2.5%
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	470	10	1.4%	6,700	- 200	- 2.9%
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	70	0	- 0.3%	690	- 10	- 1.2%
Financial activities	140	10	5.8%	1,900	180	10.8%
Education & health services	340	- 10	- 2.2%	3,600	60	1.8%
Leisure & hospitality	450	20	3.7%	6,300	330	5.5%
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	350	20	7.0%	2,800	- 130	- 4.2%
Government	820	- 10	- 0.8%	5,600	110	2.1%

*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision.
 Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding.
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